



Park & Recreation Commission

Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural
Activities 1108 Jefferson Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

February 12, 2021

Honorable members of the Planning Commission

Re: This letter summarizes the Park and Recreation Commission's support for the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation.

On January 21, 2021, the Park and Recreation Commission unanimously endorsed the design of the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation. The Commission found that the Joseph Hensley Park Renovation project is consistent with the goals and recommendations of the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan as amended in 2021. The renovation plan balances community concerns and sports programming needs with the environmental and site constraints on the property.

As identified in the 2014 Citywide Parks Improvements Plan, the aging recreation facilities at Joseph Hensley Park lack adequate drainage, parking, and modern utility infrastructure. Additionally, the site has significant constraints from the irregular parcel shape, underground utilities, wetlands on adjacent property, and Resource Protection Areas (RPA). The proposed renovation will provide needed upgrades to the athletic fields, additional parking, and new recreation features such as a playground, additional picnic facilities, batting cages, a multipurpose court, and new restrooms. The design weaves park programming, maintenance facilities and environmental measures including stormwater management and RPA buffers together to maximize the benefit to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gina Baum", is written over a blue horizontal line.

Gina Baum, Chair
Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission

cc: Alexandria Park & Recreation Commission
Mark Jinks, City Manager
Debra Collins, Deputy City Manager
James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities
Karl Moritz, Director, Planning & Zoning
Jack Browand, Acting Deputy Director, Park Planning
Bethany Znidersic, Acting Division Chief, Park Planning
Matthew Landes, Division Chief, Department of Project Implementation